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Allandale Neighbor

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How ANA Works for You

Phyllis Brinkley pbrinkley@austin.rr.com

The Allandale Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization that was established in 1973 by and for the residents of Allandale to promote and protect the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics and property values of the neighborhood. Membership is open to all residents of Allandale, homeowners and non-homeowners alike. Businesses may join as non-voting members. ANA is registered with the city of Austin as a neighborhood association.

Here are some of the ANA's noteworthy accomplishments and projects:

- Prevented Koenig Lane from becoming a freeway
- Participated in a successful state, county and city law suit alleging that Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) was in violation of the Open Meetings Act during Public Hearing processes
- Achieved the largest zoning rollback in the City to permanent Single Family Residence
- Resolved numerous zoning issues
- Produced a neighborhood roadway plan for Koenig Lane
- Helped plan the Northwest Recreation Center
- Established a permanent site for the Ralph Yarborough Branch Library
- Planned traffic island beautification projects (not the curb extensions put in 2005)
- Raised $20,000.00 for the Sheffield Northwest District Park as partial payment to secure playground equipment, a new foot bridge, walkways, fountains, landscaping, drainage work and restrooms.
- Raised money for the Gullett Elementary School Playscape and provided assembly volunteers
- Adopted Lamar Middle and Gullett Elementary Schools
- Sponsored Candidate Forums
- Promoted Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out
- Helped plan flood control projects and the replacement of four bridges over Shoal Creek
- Helped to keep the Fire Station on Hancock Drive
- Conducted Shoal Creek cleanups
- Worked with Austin Police Department to investigate and prevent crime
- Established a Neighborhood Transit Study and worked with Capital Metro to establish bus route #151 for Allandale
- Worked with St. John's United Methodist Church and Lucy Reed School in solving parking problems and Covenant Presbyterian Church to solve parking problems and zoning for a new building
- Prevented Far West Blvd. from intrusively coming through Allandale to connect with Justin Lane
- Worked with the General Land Office, developers, and other neighborhoods on the development of the "Triangle" at Guadalupe, Lamar, and 45th St.
- Worked to provide sound noise walls on MoPac
- Worked with the U.S.Postal Service to establish a new post office on North Cross Drive
- Established food drives for the Aids Services of Austin
- Stopped Union Pacific trains from idling engines for long periods of time
- Worked on the improvements for Burnet Road and North Loop intersection
- Worked with city staff, bicyclist and neighbors to reclassify Shoal Creek Blvd. from an arterial to a collector street and designed a plan for Shoal Creek Blvd.
- Prevented a commercial blood plasma center from locating in Allandale
- Applied for a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation for preservation of the greenbelt area south of Allandale Road along Shoal Creek Boulevared
- Worked on a plan for MoPac to improve mobility and to preserve the central Austin neighborhoods

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ANA's General Meeting will be on January 25 at 6 p.m. at the Yarborough Library on Hancock Drive. There will be two presentations: The Neighborhood Watch Program and the Neighborhood Planning Process. Our neighborhood is scheduled to begin the Neighborhood Planning process next Summer (2006).

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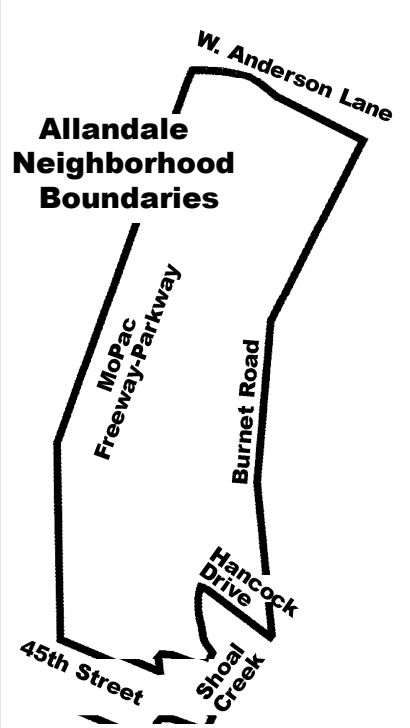
The Executive Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. Meetings are open to the public.

Allandale Police District Representative

David Crowder, 974-5545,
david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us



How ANA Works for You

Continued from front page

- Established a neighborhood-wide garage sale
- Has organized the largest July 4th Parade in Austin for the past 45 years
- Keeps neighbors informed of news and happenings with quarterly publication of the Allandale Neighbor
- Relaunched our neighborhood website (www.allandalereporter.org)
- Coordinated a cleanup along Shoal Creek in the greenbelt area south of Allandale Road along Shoal Creek Boulevard
- Added a Spring ANA General Meeting
- Worked at cleaning up Great Northern
- Continued to donate $500.00 to both Gullett Elementary and Lamar Middle School
- Worked on the Shoal Creek Boulevard Transportation Project

The success of many of these projects could not have been realized without the ANA executive committee, which represents Allandale before the City Council, Planning Commission, CAMPO (Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization), state agencies, and other decision-making bodies. The 11-member Executive Committee meets once a month to discuss neighborhood issues. In addition, the Association holds two or more General Meetings a year. ❖

SCB Stakeholder Meeting Produces Short List, 10/05

Kerry Kimbrough, 453-0786

On Saturday morning, October 15, around 80 citizens and Public Works staff members concerned about Shoal Creek Boulevard (SCB) met with city staff to sort out the issues and come up with options. The group first addressed ten alternative approaches for the basic restriping plan. Attendees broke into small groups to hash out the pros. After group presentations and general discussion, attendees voted on a total of 23 different variations. The vote tallied each person's top five choices. The result is a short list of the design alternatives that found the most favor.

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When the short list is officially published, it may contain three to six choices. But all of them are variations on two basic designs. One is the city staff's proposal (design #2). The other (design #3) is the same as what exists today, minus the curb islands. Other top variants added double white stripes between car lanes and bike lanes or shifted some space from car lanes to bike/pedestrian lanes.

Perhaps the central controversy since 2000 has been on-street parking. Will it be on both sides or one side only? In this meeting, the few who spoke up for parking on both sides were more restrained. Nevertheless, this issue continues to be pivotal. Design #2 proposes parking on the east side only, but design #3 includes parking on both sides. Since voters also identified what sort of stake they held, the results show how different types of stakeholders voted. Those who identified themselves as residents on SCB or in the surrounding neighborhoods preferred design #3 or variations thereof. For those who identified themselves as cyclists, the top choice was design #2 or one of its variations.

Overall, the design with the most votes was #2. Since neighbors seem to have outnumbered non-resident cyclist representatives, it's apparent that several neighbors ranked this choice high. It's certainly true that many neighbors enjoy cycling on SCB and want it to be a better, safer experience. It may also be that the experience of the curb islands has made some neighbors rethink where the space needs to go.

So now what? The next step was the "Official Ballot," in which all stakeholders got a chance to vote on the short list alternatives. These ballots delivered to your door or your email inbox. Then the results of the Official Ballot will go back to City Council as input for their final decision. The issue first returned to the Council's subcommittee on Land Use and Transportation for their recommendation. Then, at a meeting of the full Council (current target is in December), the final decision will be made.

The question of sidewalks for SCB was set aside as a separate topic and was not directly addressed by the voting or the short list. Nevertheless, people talked about sidewalks frequently and fervently. Within the first five minutes of the meeting, hackles were raised when one neighbor reminded Sondra Creighton (Director of Public Works) that city staff have promised sidewalks before but nothing came of it. Another neighbor pointed out that the AASHTO guidelines that govern what city engineers will accept also call for sidewalks on neighborhood collectors like SCB. Throughout the discussion, more than a few people said, "We need side-

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SCB Stakeholder Meeting

Continued from front page 3

walks, no matter what." This line never failed to draw a big round of applause.

City staff has definitely heard the message. Sondra Creighton reiterated what she has already said in prior City Council meetings: money for SCB sidewalks will be available in the FY 2006 budget. But she didn't say it's a done deal, because she can't. This expenditure will have to go through the FY 2006 budget process along with everything else. After the meeting, Creighton told me that the best case scenario would be that staff starts up the design process next spring, has a design ready for bids in August, and gets the go-ahead when the Council approves the budget in October. If approved, construction could begin soon afterward. The design process will be messy because it must address sticky issues about exactly where concrete is poured. On the one hand, Creighton's staff had a good experience recently on Mesa Drive, where they worked with neighbors to meander the sidewalks enough to save trees, etc. On the other hand, there is much dickering to do, especially on the east side, where slopes are generally steeper. A sidewalk on the west side only will probably present fewer complications and require fewer dollars, so this may be where we land. ❖

ANA General Meeting 9/28/05

Gretchen Vaden, gvden@austin.rr.com

Speed Enforcement Efforts on Shoal Creek - Calvin Smith, Central West Austin Area Commander and David Crowder, SPO, talked about enforcement efforts along Shoal Creek in response to citizen complaints. They are using a stealth camera/unit to measure traffic and speeding, a speed trailer for motorist to see their speed, and increased patrol efforts to monitor and ticket violators.

In a three-day period, approximately 9,600 cars were recorded traveling Shoal Creek Boulevard. Six percent of those were going above the speed limit (6% of 9,600=576 or 192 speeders a day). While SCB does not have a high incidence of serious injury accidents or fatalities, APD's recent monitoring efforts confirms speeding is a problem on Shoal Creek and it has stepped up enforcement efforts.

Emergency Response in Travis County—Peter Freeman of the City's Health and Human Services Department talked about the department's emergency response-related programs and services, its role in the National Response Plan, available resources offered through the department, family disaster plans, volunteer opportunities, and more. You can get the details at the Health and Human Services Department's web site (www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/). He also suggested the city's Office of Emergency Management (www.ci.austin.tx.us/oem/) and the FEMA (www.fema.gov/) web sites as helpful resources.

Covenant Presbytarian Food Drive—Rick Gerber announced the church's upcoming food drive program conducted by its youth program. They will be distributing grocery bags on doorsteps Sunday, October 9th. The food collected will be donated to Meals on Wheels and the Capital Area Food Bank.

Zoning Variance Request—Ken Carr of Carr Development provided an overview of his proposed condominium/retail project that would be built where the current Antique Marketplace at Burnet and Lawnmont. Mr. Carr owns the property and would like to move forward on the development plans he presented to the neighborhood five years ago, which received approval. To get the project underway, however, he will need to get a variance from the council to an existing city code that would limit the height of the structure facing Lawnmont to 40 feet. He'd like to go up to 60 feet. Those in attendance voted in favor of a motion to support the variance provided that if any other changes to the plans

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were made he would bring them before the neighborhood executive committee for review.

Shoal Creek Boulevard (SCB) Resolution—Although not on the agenda, a question was asked regarding the city council SCB meeting scheduled for the following day. The general consensus from those present was they did not want the city to make any further decisions about SCB without citizen input. A resolution was presented and approved. ❖

Seeking Adult Mentors for Lamar Mentor Program!

Bernadette Dodd, 414-4498

Lamar Middle School in currently recruiting mentors for the Austin Partners in Education Mentor Program. If you know an adult who would like to be a responsible, adult friend to a Lamar student and willing to give 30 to 40 minutes each Wednesday at 10:30, please contact Bernadette Dodd, 7th grade counselor, at 414-4498 or bdodd@austinisd.org. ❖

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Preparedness

Caroline Reynolds, crsolns@mail.texas.net

Recent reports of hurricanes, forest fires and earthquakes make us ask what preparations we should make for emergencies. Hurricanes, forest fires and earthquakes are unlikely in Austin, but we may experience sudden illness, home fires, flooding or tornados.

We will have little time to think in an emergency. Today is a good time to sit down with a pencil and paper and a beverage and begin to plan. There'll never be a better time than today.

Begin now to take small steps to prepare for minor emergencies like serious cuts or burns that might require a trip to the emergency room or an overnight stay at the hospital for a family member. Then take additional steps that will prepare you for an evacuation if necessary. This article will walk you through the steps to prepare, providing reminders for lists to make and items to pick up on your shopping trips. Each step you take to prepare now will save you time in an emergency, help you to remain calm and give you time to make important decisions.

Emergency Information

Begin by getting a binder or folder to hold your information lists, some blank paper and a pen or pencil. Alternatively, you can input the information to your computer and print the pages. The important thing is to begin now to compile important information and a list of names and phone numbers. Place a copy of this article and the lists and other pages in the binder or folder. Mark the folder "EMERGENCY INFORMATION" and put it in an easy-to-remember place, so that you can quickly grab it when you need the information.

Place in the binder or folder pages for:

- Contact phone numbers and addresses for parents, children, other relatives, close friends and neighbors
- Simple medical facts for each family member—Name, age, medications, allergies, sensitivity to medications, xerox of prescriptions, eyeglass prescriptions
- Property and medical insurance company(s) and policy numbers—Xerox copies of the front and back of insurance cards
- Xerox copies of credit and calling cards—Name and address of banks, account numbers, location of your safe deposit or lock box

This doesn't have to be complete today. Just do what you can now, leave blanks to fill in later, then schedule another 30 minutes to find missing information Write the date and time on your calendar and keep your date. Make a shopping list for needed supplies.

Think about which family records you need to take in an emergency. If deeds, birth certificates and other hard-to-replace items are hidden in a drawer somewhere, find them and call a bank to rent a small safe deposit lockbox to store these items. Make a copy to keep in your files.

Start a list and get a red notebook or folder to store these important documents. Remember, it needs to be something you can easily carry to your car. It cannot be an entire file cabinet full of paper.

Be Prepared

Decide on a place to always keep your purse or wallet and car keys so you don't spend time searching for them in an emergency. Wear good, sturdy shoes to protect your feet — not sandals or slippers. Keep a simple top and slacks or skirt ready to slip into quickly, even in the middle of the night.

With these steps in place, you are ready to focus on people and other important issues

People

Have a plan for leaving the house in case of a fire or flood. Take only what is important. The safety of family members is more important than possessions or records. If you have time, take important records and special possessions. To save time, list these items and their location on a sheet of paper to go in the notebook or folder so that you don't forget anything.

Have an emergency box or bag of food and water ready to go—include wholesome snacks like dried fruit, nuts, peanut butter, crackers, soup and canned beans.

If you will be leaving your home for several days or weeks you will need to have jugs or bottles of water— one gallon of water per person. With the water, keep a pocket-sized LED (ordinary flashlights will last only 4 or 5 hours, while the LED will last hundreds of hours), a bottle of hand sanitizer, a bar of soap, aluminum foil (it can be used for cooking

and can be shaped into cups or plates), matches in a water proof container (a plastic bag or tightly capped glass jar), and a roll of duct tape that can be used to repair clothing.

Add a pad, a pencil and a flattened roll of paper towels in a sealed plastic bag. Add as you can, a space blanket for each person, water purification drops. Keep these items in a waterproof container that can be carried to your car. Get a car adaptor or extra battery for your cell phone so that it can be charged when you are away from home.

Pets

Keep pet carriers and leashes readily available to lead pets to safety. Also take pet food with you if you are leaving your home.

Pictures

Keep negatives or CDs of pictures in a lockbox or at a family member's home. Have picture albums in one place ready to grab and go.

Papers

Keep important original documents like wills and deeds in a lock box at the bank. Keep only copies at home. Keep these copies and other important documents in a red note book or folder that you can quickly find and grab to go.

Prescriptions

Take your medications, especially refrigerated ones like insulin. Have a small ice chest and ice pack accessible. If you have babies, remember their formula and medications. Check that you have all the prescriptions listed and xeroxed in the Emergency Information notebook. Now is a good time to put together a first aid kit with at least band aids, gauze squares, tape, aspirin, an Ace bandage and antibiotic cream. Do you need to include spare eyeglasses or contact lenses, contact lens solutions or hearing aid batteries?

Purses and Petrol

Check to see that your identification, credit cards and emergency cash are in your purse. This is a good time to xerox the front and back of your credit cards and calling cards and put a copy in the Emergency Information note book. Make sure your car always has a half tank of gas. Make a habit to fill up every weekend, not just when the needle is on Empty.

Do you have a city and state map handy in each car? If not, put it on your weekend shopping list.

Proper Clothes and Comfort Items

Quickly check the weather and gather up a change of clothes and outer wear — coat, rain gear, boots, gloves and hats. For babies, get diapers. For children remember their favorite blanket, stuffed toy or game. Each person may bring their personal pillow for comfort sleeping in the car or away from home. A deck of cards will help while away the hours playing battle ship, old maid, go fish or match.

Planner or Calendar

These items are small and contain appointments and phone numbers you may need.

Phones and Radios

If you have a cell phone, keep it charged, and have an extra battery and/or a car charger. Have extra radio batteries.

Property Check

Lock windows and doors. If evacuating, turn off water and electric utilities.

Patience

This is an important item. Keep it close so you will be calm and have a clear head. Being patient will make things less stressful. Children will be calmer when they see you calm and collected. If you have gone through this list ahead of time, you will be prepared and have things ready to pack and go in an emergency.

Don't wait until you are being asked to evacuate. Everyone thinks that it could not happen to them. Well, it could happen to you and it is up to you to make sure you are prepared. Don't wait. Start NOW!

With flooding common in Central Texas, remember that 80% of flood deaths happen to people in vehicles. Just two feet of rapidly moving water can float a BUS, and it only takes 6 inches to knock you off your feet in rough or slippery terrain. Watch for downed power lines and give them a wide berth.

Follow recommended evacuation routes to avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.

Thanks to Flylady.net for many of the ideas used in this piece. Additional info came from Dr. Tom Kirsh, the emergency department operations director at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a Michael McCaul newsletter. ❖

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Quaker Parrots in Austin

Gloria Mata-Pennington, 452-1100

Have you heard loud screeching, looked up and then couldn't believe that you were looking at small green parrots? Those parrots are Quaker parrots, also known as Monk Parakeets, and originally their native territory was southeast Brazil through Uruguay to northeastern Argentina. Today, feral colonies of Quakers can be found throughout the United States. The Quaker is a hardy bird; it appears to thrive in even the coldest of climates and can also be found in many of the eastern states.

The Quaker is a small parrot about eleven inches in length. The overall color of the Quaker is green, with pale grey on the forehead, cheeks, throat and extending down to the chest. On the chest, the grey feathers are white-tipped, giving a scalloped effect. Some blue can be found in the tail and flight feathers. The eyes are dark brown, and the bill is horn colored.

I first became aware of Quakers approximately seven years ago, when I saw one in a cage at a local pet and feed store. I was attracted to the engaging little parrot that seemed as interested in me as I was in it. I asked what kind of parrot it was and was told it was a Quaker and that Austin had a fairly large feral colony with huge nests built in light poles and electrical transformers in various parts of south and east Austin.

Months later, while walking along Festival Beach, I heard for the first time, the screech of flying parrots in Austin. I looked up and saw a flock of nine or so parrots flying overhead and watched as several veered off towards a transformer pole where I quickly spotted a nest. The next day, I returned with a camera and started taking photos of those beautiful little parrots. At first, I could not get too close without them flying off but over the years, they must have adjusted to having humans as neighbors, because now my friend, Victor Ovalle, and I have gotten as close as eight feet to take photos of them forging.

Because Quakers are hardy and prolific breeders and can quickly grow into large colonies, they are illegal in some states. Many fear that they will take over widespread areas, destroying crops and other vegetation in the process. Another fear, is that the location of their nests on light poles or transformers can cause blackouts or fire. None of that has happened. Yet, they continue to be illegal in many states (but not in Texas) and many utility companies tear down their nests. In Texas, I have read of only one utility company, TU in the Dallas area that has tried to accommodate the parrots by creating a habitat for them in cooperation with the Dallas Audubon Society and the Dallas Museum of Natural History. In other states, some utility companies have coordinated rescue of baby birds prior to the destruction of the nests.

Quakers make wonderful companion birds but should not be an impulse buy. With proper care and diet, they can live 25 to 30 years. They have an amazing capacity to imitate both sounds and human speech and are listed among the top ten best talking birds. Quakers also enjoy toys, especially those made of soft wood that can be chewed. They play well and will entertain themselves and you. Just like in the wild, companion parrots can also be loud and messy, but it's the price you pay for enjoying life with a parrot. ❖

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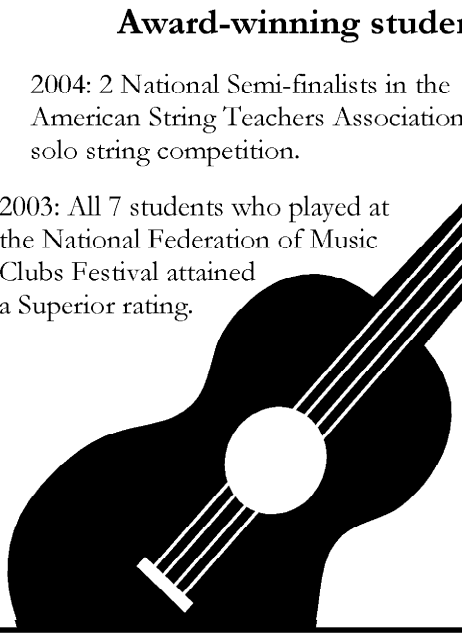

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Conspirare	476-5775
Hyde Park Theatre	479-7529
La Follia Austin Baroque	345-8866 x43
Mary Moody Theatre	448-8487
One World Theatre	329-6753, 469-7469
Paramount & State Theatre (Austin Theatre Alliance)	472-5470
Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art	471-7324
Salon Concerts	342-2785
St. Cecilia Music Series	345-8866
Texas Early Music Project	371-0099
U. T. Performing Arts Center	471-1444
U. T. School of Music Info Hotline	471-5401
Zach Scott Theater Center	476-0541
31st Street Concerts	302-1818

Check out www.allandalereporter.org

Brown Recluse Spiders

Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension, 854-9600

There are five species of recluse spiders found in Texas, with the best known being the brown recluse. These spiders are shy and do not like being in the open. Recluse spiders are about the size of a quarter including their legs, with the body being about 1/2 inch long. They are usually light brown, but can be orangish to dark brown in color. Recluse spiders are known for the characteristic violin or fiddle-shaped marking on their back. The other distinguishing feature is an eye pattern of three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the front of the head.

Around homes recluse spiders can be found in garages, firewood piles or piles of stored materials such as lumber. Inside these spiders are found in bedrooms, closets, bathrooms, under furniture, behind baseboards, in cracks and crevices or in corners. They are most active at night when hunting for food.

People are typically bitten by accidentally rolling over onto a spider while sleeping or while putting on clothes that the spiders are hiding in. Bite effects can be immediate or delayed. Bites cause a stinging sensation that can become very painful. Symptoms may also include fever, chills and nausea. The area of the bite will form a small blister surrounded by a large swollen area. The venom kills cell tissue, causing it to slough away, leaving an open wound that will fill with scar tissue as it heals. ❖

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ANA Executive Committee meeting, 8-24-2005

Kay Newell, kayn7@austin.rr.com

1) Proposal by an Allandale neighbor: Start a neighborhood competition that rewards our children for being good citizens.

Idea: To donate new HP equipment (i.e. hp printers, hp digital cameras, etc.) each quarter to kids age (12-18) who deliver neighborhood projects that meet the following requirements:

1. Improve the quality of life of the Allandale neighborhood
2. Protect and maintain the Allandale environment
3. Are creative and respect the history, elderly, and diversity of the Allandale neighborhood
4. Document their reasons for winning an award.

This is not sponsored by HP but by one of our Allandale neighbors.

Paul motioned that ANA formally recognize and participate in this generous offer. Jeff seconded the motion. All in favor—yes. Gerri S will work on an application that she will take to the Allandale schools and PTAs.

2) Grant proposal for plantings along Great Northern

Per Meg Wilson—the Cogburn Foundation is open to whatever ideas the neighborhood has in the way of plantings. We feel that not only will it make it quieter, prettier, and cleaner for the people living along Great Northern, but also will enhance the biking/walking experience there, and balance the fact that we have to take into consideration future plans by TxDOT and Capital Metro for the Great Northern area. Paul brought up the ideas ANA has for new plantings along Shoal Creek from 2222 to Hancock. Meg Wilson asked Paul to submit an application to the Cogburn Foundation by Sept 4 2005. Pat motioned that ANA submit the application, Kay seconded the motion. All in favor—yes.

3) IBM 10K—due to construction at IBM the City of Austin has given a permit for IBM to run its marathon through Allandale. There will be traffic delays in Allandale as well as street closures. IBM said the barriers will be pulled quickly as the last runners pass through the course. Per Gretchen Vaden we will discuss this at the September General Meeting and on the listserve.

4) Zoning issue. 5505 Shoalmont—owner bought a single family home and had zoning changed from SF2 to SF3 with a conditional overlay. He now wants the conditional overlay removed. Based on the way he is building on that lot it could well end up with eight units. Multi-family construction on a lot is not in keeping with the neighborhood. The neighbors found out August 9 about a meeting with the city scheduled for Auust 16, which was then postponed to September 6. Pat motioned that ANA join the neighbors in opposing this zoning change, Paul and Wendy seconded the motion. All in favor—yes. Paul questioned what the City Staff recommendation is. The neighbors are working on a petition to present to the city.

5) The ANA membership database has 374 records in it—192 are not current dues paying members. Gretchen suggested after the September General Meeting that ANA send out postcards to the members reminding them of their ANA membership. Gerri motioned that ANA proceed with this, Jeff seconded. All in favor—yes.

6) Roger Beasley Mazda—Gretchen asked Jim Bryce to contact Roger Beasley and ask about future plans for their former car lot on the west side of Burnet. Gretchen heard a rumor that Roger Beasley was going to put a new dealership in the old lot. She has asked Jim to find out if Roger is going to keep the land or sell it which might lead to a request for a zoning change depending on who the land might be sold to.

7) HPWNA held a special meeting concerning Varsity Properties buying homes in established neighborhoods and converting them to 6 bedroom rentals for college students. A number of neighbors already have a Varsity Property house in their neighborhood and are having problems normally associated with college students. HPWNA has a committee working towards changing city zoning which allows six unrelated individuals in a home with only two off-street parking places. But then again you don't want a zoning change that would negatively impact group homes.

8) City staff and the Transportation Committee (Brewster, Betty & Jennifer) were holding a meeting to discuss Shoal Creek restriping. Sindra Creighton says they can restripe in a manner that ANA originally requested several years ago, even though at the time City staff said it could not be done that way.

9) Big Red is now owned by the Fire Fighters Museum and is in need of work and parts. They would have had it at our July 4th parade but it is not running well and they don't have a trailer to transport it. Perhaps an ANA mechanic or business will help with the repairs. Pat motioned that ANA cover the cost of an estimate for repairs for $500 or under. Jeff seconded the motion. All in favor—yes.

10) The UT pool is maxed out, there are not enough year-round pools to support all the swim teams in Austin. The city is spending money on wading pool improvement instead of improving for pay pools. Paul motioned that ANA provide a letter of support for the foundation working to renovate Northwest Pool and convert it to a twelve-month pool. Pat seconded the motion. All in favor—yes.

11) There was a discussion about the area on the other side of the church, off Hancock that is a part of ANA. There is a difference of opinion as to what the actual boundaries are. ❖

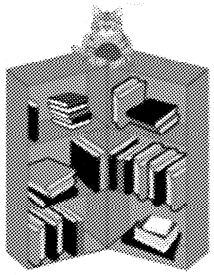
The Yarborough Library

Bonita-Snyder Jones, 454-7208

Public hours: As you might know, the City has decided to restore staff and hours to the branch libraries in the budget year 2005-06. This means that Yarborough will probably be open again on Thursdays, starting in December.

Party time: We will host our annual Winter Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 6, 5:30 to 8:00. Music groups this year will be: 5:45-6:30 Mariachi Garibay; 6:30-7:15 Capitol City Highlanders Pipe Band; 7:15-8:00 Buck Buchanan and the Manchaca AllStars Bluegrass Band. In addition we will host a youth program, the Taiko drummers 6:00-6:30. And of course, food and crafts as always. Please visit with us that evening for a very loud, grand library celebration. And, call me if you would like to help us out behind the scenes, Bonita Snyder-Jones 454-7208.

Creek/sewage project: Please note that the City creek/sewage project is using our parking lot as a staging and drilling area. If there are not parking spots there for you, you will need to park on some of the residential streets in the neighborhood. We ask all to use caution crossing Hancock Drive—I am hopeful that the City will be able to give us a crosswalk during this excavation project, which is expected to last into the spring. ❖



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MONAC Minutes, 10/1/2005

Kay Newell kayn7@austin.rr.com

Joyce Basciano, President called the meeting to order. Joyce asked for approval of the minutes from 7-19-2005, Sid Covington moved to approve the minutes and Bill Woods seconded the motion. The membership voted in favor. Joyce then introduced the other MoNAC officers present at the meeting – Art Arvarkin, VP and Kay Newell, Secretary. Joyce thanked Marlene Romanczak and Scott Archer for the refreshments.

Bill Woods presented Frances Allen with a gold-framed copy of the MoNAC resolution naming her President Emeritus of MoNAC for her outstanding years of service to MoNAC.

Sid Covington gave an update on the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund proposition coming up on the November 8 ballot. This fund creates a repository for the funding that will be needed to move Union Pacific (UP) out of Central Austin to an area east of Austin. In order to fund the move, this mechanism must be in place. By moving Union Pacific east of Austin, UP will be able to move more freight, thereby reducing the number of 18-wheelers on Texas highways, which will improve air quality, and enhance public safety.

Joseph Carrizales, Advanced Project Development Engineer, TxDOT reviewed the two main goals of the consulting team. One—the CAMPO (Capital Area Metropolitan Organization) 2030 plan, which includes two managed lanes from the river to Parmer Lane. TxDOT has a Type 1 policy—this means that noise walls have to be tied to increased capacity construction. The managed lanes will provide the increased capacity. Two—the long range plans for the future of MoPAC. He introduced Mark Herber, PE, Loop 1 Project Team Manager; John Kelly, PE, VP, Major Projects in Texas of DMJM Harris; Karen Savage, Senior Project Manager, Planning Practice Leader, Texas of DMJM Harris; and Shirley Nichols, Public Involvement Consultant with CPandY. This will be the contact team for the Loop 1 (MoPAC) study.

John Kelly stated DMJM signed a contract with TxDOT a couple of months ago. In another few months they will start their public involvement meetings. They will begin the process with a DPP—Deliberative Polling Process. They are looking for a broad cross section of Austin residents to participate in this process, which will last 4-5 months. The first phase—noise walls, will take 4-5 years; this will include public involvement, design, and construction. The walls would be placed on the current ROW; they will be a permanent element of the long-term solution for MoPAC. The long-term solution process for MoPAC will begin after the noise wall phase.

Annual reports by attending neighborhood associations:

Allandale Neighborhood Association—Kay Newell and Phyllis Brinkley—Curb islands and working with APD to slow traffic on Shoal Creek; Great Northern plantings by the City of Austin; working with the Parks Foundation and the Cogburn Foundation to remove the ball moss from the oak

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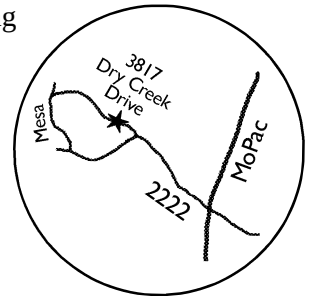

trees along Shoal Creek from 2222 to 45th, and to plant additional trees in that area; and announced the new Allandale website – http://www.allandalereporter.org

Highland Park West/Balcones Area Neighborhood Association—Frances Allen—Beautification Projects are taking place at the Triangle at Ridge Oak, the Triangle at Balcones and Parkcrest, planting at the Hancock overpass, and clearing shrubs and tress from the Perry Park Quarry with a matching grant for three benches. They have in place sector captains for crime and safety. They have switched to a monthly newsletter prepared by Peel, Inc. There are now sidewalks from Balcones to Perry Lane plus a pedestrian crossing at Balcones and Parkcrest. They are monitoring any potential changes to Brightleaf as it impacts many of their neighbors. A committee has been formed of several neighborhood associations to work with the City Council to revise the code of six unrelated people in a residence to a lesser number.

Old Enfield Homeowners Association—Marlene Romanczak—they had their annual picnic at Pease Mansion, their newsletter now goes out quarterly, crime has been up and down – the frat houses are dumping in Pease Park but APD refers these problems to the University police. There is a problem with cut-through traffic; teardowns and zoning problems—they are working on historic recognition. Varsity Properties' conversion of homes to college student rentals has caused problems for the neighbors.

WANG (West Austin Neighborhood Group)—Joyce Basciano—there is concern about the sale of the state school property. There are inappropriate teardowns and development—there is a problem with code enforcement by the City of Austin. Cut-through traffic is a problem. The Friends of Reed Park and Friends of Deep Eddy Pool are working to improve both facilities. Varsity Properties conversion of homes to college student rentals has caused problems for the neighborhoods.

Oakmont Heights Neighborhood Association—Tom Whatley—they have a problem with Lee Properties, which is doing much the same thing as Varsity Properties. A zoning issue at 35th and Jefferson has been resolved. They are questioning what will happen to the TxDOT land along Bull Creek if and when TxDOT moves and a developer buys the property.

BrykerWoods Neighborhood Association—Edward Tasch —they are having a problem with inappropriate development—teardowns and rebuilds that are not in keeping with the neighborhood. They are also considering a historic district. Cut through traffic has been a problem in BrykerWoods for years. The city neighborhood planning process should happen in the next two years. The Mayor is coming to their November 19 neighborhood association meeting to discuss development and cut-through traffic. ❖

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MoPAC Redux

Sid Covington, 925-1231

Four years ago, the residents of west Austin joined with local elected officials to do something that conventional wisdom said was impossible—keep TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) from expanding Mopac into our neighborhoods.

In 2000, TxDOT began what it called the "Loop 1/US 183 Improvement Project." They held a number of meetings in the neighborhoods along the project corridor. In general, the public opinion was that their views were ignored. In March 2001, TxDOT made a presentation to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) where they publicly unveiled their designs and requested permission to move forward with the project (Phase 2). The alternative apparently preferred would have demolished some 166 homes and businesses and would have had a total of 17 lanes between Enfield Road and Windsor Road.

MoNAC

In response to concerns voiced by the residents along Mopac in central Austin, a group of neighborhood associations came together as the MoPAC Neighborhoods Associations Coalition (MoNAC). Austin's Mayor Kirk Watson supported MoNAC's position. After some 900 people appeared at the April 2001 CAMPO meeting to speak against allowing TxDOT to proceed to Phase 2, the strategy and position proposed by MoNAC was adopted by CAMPO.

Special Committee

Basically, the strategy MoNAC proposed and Mayor Watson presented to CAMPO as an alternative to proceeding to Phase 2 called for the creation of a "Loop 1-US 183 Systems Analysis Special Committee" to review TxDOT's project and make recommendations. The Special Committee included CAMPO members and neighborhood representatives (Ian Inglis, Allan McMurtry, the late Neal Kocurek, and me). TxDOT was represented by their District Engineer, Bill Garbade.

The committee retained a "Technical Team" of seven nationally known consultants to review TxDOT's plans and develop more appropriate recommendations. These consultants included an urban planner, a landscape architect, a rail transit expert, transportation engineers, a noise and vibration expert, and a public involvement expert. Their conclusion, called the "Technical Team Report" confirmed what the residents intuitively knew: mobility on MoPAC could be improved within the existing right-of-way boundaries and without elevating the roadway. Additionally, the rail tracks could be preserved for future commuter rail and sound walls could be installed reducing the noise in the neighborhoods.

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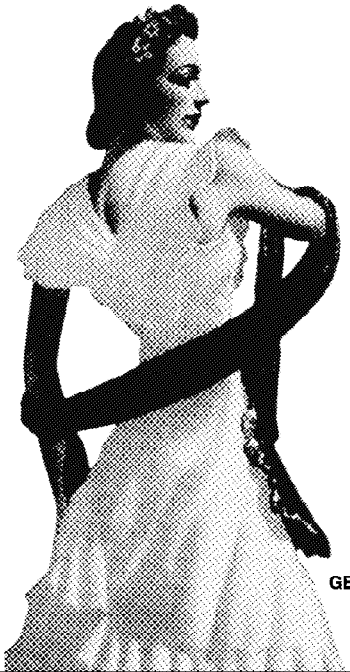

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In short—MoPAC could achieve improved mobility and the neighborhoods could benefit at the same time.

CAMPO and the City of Austin formally adopted the recommendations of the Technical Team although TxDOT abruptly canceled the project. Because of the formal adoption however, the recommendations provide the framework for future development projects on MoPAC.

Meanwhile

Since the MoPAC project was cancelled, a great deal has happened that has direct or indirect impact on MoPAC. HB-3588 in the 78th Legislature (along with HB-2702 in the 79th Legislature) provided financing and development tools that allow the State to create tolled roadways and improvements and use the revenue from these tolls as a source for funding transportation projects in the region. In addition to having new funding tools, the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District has been established. The Commuter Rail District is working with other State entities to relocate the Union Pacific "through" freight from the existing tracks. Bob Daigh is now the District Engineer for the Austin District.

TxDOT has recently initiated a new project to alleviate the congestion on MoPAC. The first phase will be to add two "managed" lanes within the existing footprint of MoPAC to provide relief from congestion. A major component of this first phase will be the installation of sound walls to buffer the adjacent neighborhoods from the roadway noise. TxDOT has retained the consulting firm of DMJM Harris as the project management team for the MoPAC project. John Kelly, the Project Manager, has had significant experience developing projects with similar complexity as the MoPAC corridor and is committed to making this something that everyone will be proud of.

Unlike the previous project, there are going to be numerous public meetings, surveys, design workshops and other ways for the citizens to make their viewpoints known.

It is very important that the residents of west Austin educate themselves on the project. Attend as many meetings as possible. Learn what the options are so you can make your informed choices known. A tremendous amount of effort went into creating an environment where TxDOT is willing to listen to the public and take its input; it is now up to us to provide it in a constructive manner.

[Editor's Note: Sid Covington has been very involved in west Austin neighborhood issues for many years. He lives in the Highland Park-Balcones West neighborhood and is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Austin San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District. Sid also serves on the Transportation Commission's Trans Texas Corridor Advisory Committee.] ❖

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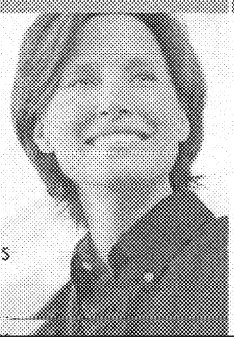

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The 350 volunteers of Assistance League of Austin shifted into full gear this Fall. In September, Operation School Bell not only clothed 458 AISD students in need but also managed to provide new clothing to over 200 Katrina evacuees at an approximate cost of $60 per child.

Because of the many philanthropic projects Assistance League supports, the community recognized the League's contributions to the local area. In August the organization won the Freescale award for being the outstanding non-profit at the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. Several news stations touted Assistance League efforts with the children of Austin. On September 15, Daryl and Edith Royal visited Operation School Bell to witness the happy faces of AISD children receiving new school clothes. On October 11, 2005, Toy Cart at Children's Hospital celebrated its 30th anniversary. Toy Cart has been a bright spot in the day of over 180,000 children served at a cost of nearly $500,000. Assistance League also maintains the fish tanks at Children's Hospital and provides Because We Care Bears to children in the emergency room.

Assistance League contributions to the Austin community are supported primarily by revenues generated by Thrift House, grants and local cash donations. The Thrift House is located at 4901 Burnet Road and is open Wednesday through Saturday, from10 to 4. Donations of gently used clothing, furniture and/or cash are appreciated and can be made Monday through Saturday at the side entrance. Thrift House is a great place to shop for holiday decorations, gifts and other needs.

Austin Chamber Music Center Concerts Return to Allandale

Erin Hill, info@austinchambermusic.org, 454-0026

After a four-year absence, the Austin Chamber Music Center brings chamber music back to the Allandale neighborhood! These inexpensive Sunday afternoon concerts, which take place at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4700 Grover Avenue), are a fantastic opportunity for families to introduce their children to the world of live classical music. Many of the musicians are members of the Austin Symphony Orchestra or are on the music faculty of The University of Texas at Austin. Upcoming concerts include:

Mozart Madness
Sunday, January 29, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.
$18 (general admission), $10 (students)

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the great composer's birthday; featuring his quartet for flute and strings and some of his sonatas for strings and piano.

Christmas is coming and you are invited. . . . . .

Sunday afternoon, December 11, 4:30pm

Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti
Dinner following the service, $10/adult
(call 452.5737 to make a dinner reservation)

December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5:00pm Service designed with young children in mind
7:00 and 9:00pm Candlelight Communion Services

Sunday, Decemer 25
11:00 am Christmas Day Service

St. John's United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Services at 9 & 11
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Bobbi Kaye Jones, Senior Pastor
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Beaucoup Boulanger
Sunday, April 10, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.
$18 (general admission), $10 (students)

Highlighting the legacy of legendary teacher Nadia Boulanger and her sister, Lili, the first female composer to win the coveted Prix de Rome.

Visit www.austinchambermusic.org for complete program information and to purchase tickets. ❖

Allandale Appetites

Alison Bogle, alisonbogle@hotmail.com

As the holidays sneak up on us, many of us will be inviting friends and family over to share in the joy of the season. It is always good to have a list of recipes on hand that can be quickly whipped up in time for these gatherings. The following recipe requires just one bowl and some quick mixing. The result is delicious!

If you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share for an upcoming publication, you can email it to me at alisonbogle@hotmail.com. If you'd prefer, you can also mail your recipe to me at 5714 Marilyn Drive. Please include your name and telephone number so that I may contact you to learn the story surrounding your recipe, or feel free to just include the story with your recipe.

Artichoke Dip

2/3 cup Parmesan cheese
2/3 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion
1 tablespoon chopped pimento peppers

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Lightly grease a medium baking dish.

Blend together cheese, mayonnaise and whipping cream. Stir in the artichokes, green onions and pimentos. Mix well, and transfer to the prepared baking dish.

Bake 25 minutes in preheated oven, until lightly browned. *Best served warm. ❖

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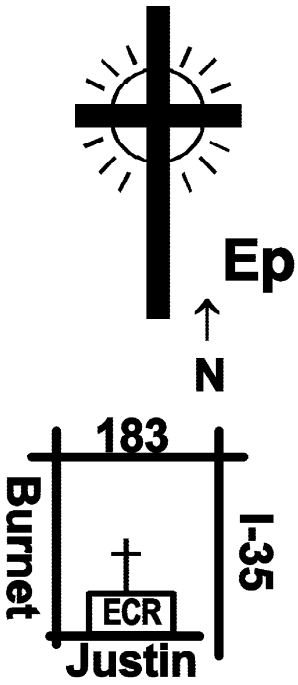

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Shoal Creek Boulevard Improvements Update and Meeting Notice

Paul Nagy, pdnagy@alumni.utexas.net

Meeting Notice: On Monday, December 5 (changed from the 12th as previously announced) at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, the City Council Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee will hear a report from the City's Public Works Department (PWD) on the results of recent stakeholder input.

It was reported in the June Allandale newsletter issue that PWD was evaluating the improvements to the boulevard. Formal traffic counts, working on raised pavement markers and considering painting additional markings on the pavement were on hold.

The year long review process promised by PWD, however, was cut short. Instead, on September 12, the three member City Council Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee (Brewster McCracken as Chairman, Betty Dunkerley and Lee Leffingwell) heard a presentation initiated by PWD advocating quick removal of the curb islands. The Subcommittee unanimously voted to remove the curb islands then directed PWD staff to bring back options in November for restriping for bikes and present parking alternatives.

PWD organized a public input meeting on October 15th out of which several "options" were placed on a "ballot" for "voting" by residents and cyclists. As mentioned above, the results will be presented on December 5th.

Watch for additional information or updates on the SCB project on Allandale's website (www.allandalereporter.org) and the newsgroup (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/) between issues of this newsletter. ❖

Holiday Tips

David Crowder david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us 974-5545

With the upcoming holidays approaching I thought I would send out these safety tips;

Personal Safety

- There is always safety in numbers, so try not to go to the mall alone. If you do, don't leave the mall alone at night.
- When leaving the mall, try not to leave with your arms overloaded. You want to leave with an arm available to unlock then open your trunk or door.

Property Crime Prevention (vehicle)

- Remember this phrase when you go shopping: LOCK your doors, TAKE your keys HIDE your belongings.
- Do not put your things in the trunk then walk off. If someone is on the prowl and sees this they'll know there is something in your trunk. So, drive around to a different part of the mall then go back in.
- If you plan on shopping past dark, park under a light pole.

Property Crime Prevention (home)

- Tell your neighbors you're leaving and have them watch your house while you are gone.
- Have timer lights for the interior lights of your house.
- Have a motion light for your exterior lights. When you set it, have it set so that it turns on when the object is close to your house. Also set it up so that only something large sets it off. By doing this, it won't give you a false reading.
- Do not set up your Christmas tree near any front windows. If you do, don't place any presents under the tree.
- Keep the shrubs near windows cut, so as they do not go any higher that then bottom of the window and cut preferably 18" off the house.

Of course there are no absolutes, I can not guarantee that if you follow these prevention tips you won't be a victim. Common sense and good judgment are always necessary to keep ourselves and our property safe. ❖

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Neighborhood Coyotes

Cheryl and Robert mcgmil@sbcglobal.net

Just a heads up to let you know that we've heard coyotes along the Shoal Creek greenbelt between Bull Creek Rd. and Northland Drive. A representative at Agriculture Extension says that coyotes are in this area and reminds residents that coyotes are most active from dusk until dawn. Cats are most at risk of being attacked, but in rare cases dogs have been as well. Keeping your animals in at night is recommended. Report any attacks/encounters with coyotes in your neighborhood to 311. ❖

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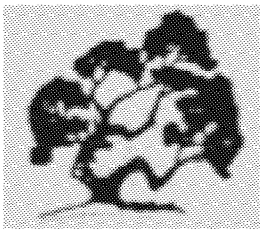

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Dog Talk: Off-leash Dogs

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

Off-leash dogs, except when in a designated off-leash area, present problems for dog-lovers, other dogs and cats, and for those who are not taken with dogs. This article is about the unleashed dog who is not in a designated off-leash area, and offers some tips for fending off these loose dogs.

Some of these dogs are loose because they have escaped yards. That is a topic I would be happy to discuss in another article. Others are loose because their people believe the dog is under their control while loose in a front yard, sitting in the back of a pick-up, or walking down the road. Typically the dog IS under their control right up to the point when it ISN'T!! Many times people have said to me (after the crisis), "He has never done that before." I can think of a number of dogs who died young when their impulse control got the best of them and they were hit and killed by vehicles. Their deaths were completely avoidable.

Other loose dogs end up in quarantine at the city pound. Why? They may charge up to a person walking a dog on leash. Maybe the leashed dog doesn't like strange dogs and a fight ensues. If the owner gets bitten trying to break up the fight, the loose dog may very well be the cause of the bite and be quarantined for rabies observation. The bitten person may, also, come to you for medical coverage for the dog bite if your dog was the perpetrator. I worked with one family whose homeowner's insurance was being canceled, unless they got rid of their dog—the dog who had caused the bite.

How often have you seen a person walking with a loose dog and the person calls out, "It's okay; my dog is friendly." Well, maybe the leashed dog is perfectly fine with people and even fine with other dogs when he is off-leash, but many leashed dogs feel on the defensive, and will fight to protect themselves if their space is invaded by a dog running loose, regardless of how friendly the dog may be.

Those folks who like to walk their leashed dogs in the neighborhood are in compliance with the law and, more importantly, clearly have unequivocal control of their dogs. Still, they need a way to protect themselves and their dogs from those running loose.

One of the things I recommend carrying is a pop-open umbrella. If you see a strange off-leash dog approaching, as the dog gets near, pop it open so as to frighten the dog and to create a bit of a barrier between you and your dog and the strange dog. Other folks find it helpful to carry mace, bear spray, or a spray bottle with vinegar. Personally, I buy "Direct Stop" from Omaha Vaccine (www.omahavaccine.com). It is a potent spray in a pocket-sized aerosol container that disperses citronella spray, which is a substance dogs really don't like. It is a bit pricey, but it really is effective and it causes no harm to anyone, even your own dogs, should it blow in your direction.

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Because of my work with dogs, many situations come to my attention that most people don't hear about. Of late I have become quite saddened at the serious and totally avoidable incidents that have brought pain, expense and even death into the lives of people and their dogs due to owners who allow their dogs to run loose. It is not up to the dog to turn to his person and ask to be put on leash. All of us who really care about our dogs need to grab that leash and use it - every single time we go out. Remember, when there is an incident, the dog, not the responsible person, typically pays the price.

I would be happy to coordinate the purchase of Direct Stop if people are interested. That way, we can save on shipping charges.

If your dog gets loose by jumping or digging under the fence, I can provide some tips to end this behavior. Give me a call. There is never any charge. If someone would like to offer a place to meet for a small group to talk about dog issues, let me know.

Dog Talk: It's That Time of the Year Again

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

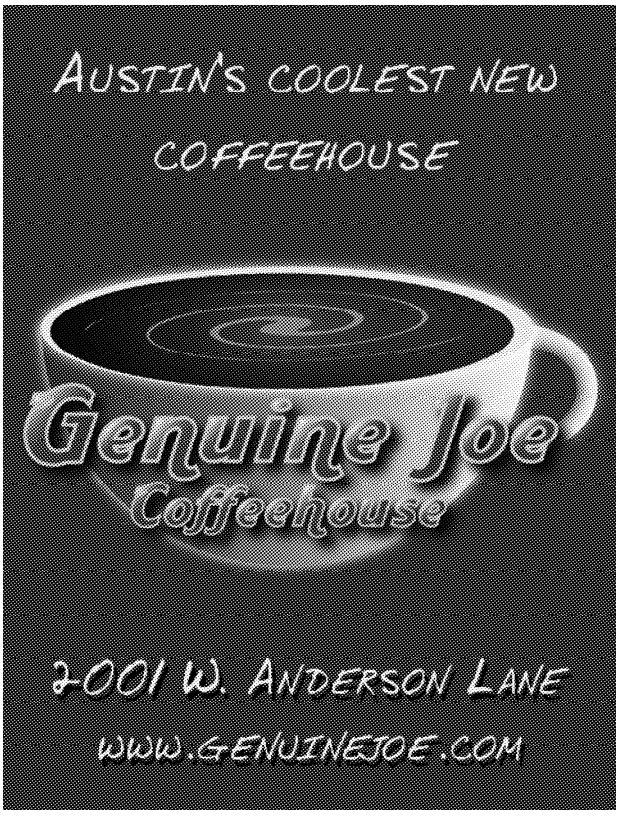
This is the time of the year when people start thinking about getting a puppy or adult dog as a present for a child or other family member. Try as I might, few people listen when I urge them to not get a dog as a present for anybody and, to certainly avoid doing it at holiday time when everyone is busy, households are full of activity and objects that can lead to problems, such as Christmas trees, presents, candy, extra electric cords, etc. are everywhere.

If you want to give a dog as a present, I have some suggestions. Rather than giving a dog, put together a wonderful package of gift certificates and really terrific books about living with a new dog and give that. You can make the certificate and enumerate what it is good for, e.g. "This certificate entitles you to a collar, a leash, a dog dish, two dog toys, a bag of premium dog food (such as Natural Balance), a crate, and a comfy dog bed." This will be a very, very welcome gift. Include a copy of some wonderful books such as, books by folks like Dr. Ian Dunbar, Dr. Patricia McConnell, Carol Benjamin, and Karen Pryor. All are available online, both new and used.

I strongly urge you to consider a rescue dog. You can contact me if you would like to reach a rescue group for a particular breed. I will be happy to point you in the right direction. If you want a mixed breed dog, I can point you in the right direction, as well.

The relationship between a dog and its people is special and a good match is critical. If you go to a reputable rescue group, they should be asking you lots and lots of questions about your lifestyle and what you are hoping for in a dog. Do you want a jogging companion, someone to be a couch potato with you, a dog to do therapy with or to compete in dog-people activities? Think it through and be sure you discuss it with everyone in your family and with the rescue group.

Continued on page 21



Be rational. The dog needs to fit readily into your lifestyle. I know a family that insists they want a puppy, yet the primary caretaker for the dog works ten plus hours a day and the only person home is an elderly relative who is unstable on her feet and whose hearing is poor. This is no situation for a puppy, but they are insistent. No reputable rescuer, in my opinion, would place a puppy in this situation. It could endanger the senior relative and the puppy will not get the attention, training and socialization it needs to develop fully. A settled trained dog about 5 years old would probably work well, but they will not consider it. Think through your lifestyle. Think about what a dog needs and deserves.

When you go to a rescue group, let them know you are interested in a dog that has been living in a foster situation and has been evaluated in a home setting. Ask specifics about the dog. The following are examples:

—Is the dog in a foster home with children? How old are the children and how does the dog interact with them?

—Is the dog crate-trained? Housetrained? Destructive? If housetrained, how does the dog signal that it needs to go outside to potty?

—How does the dog interact with the other pets in the foster home? What genders are the other dogs? I recommend that you get a dog of the opposite sex from your current dog.

—Does the rescue group provide ongoing support on behavioral issues?

—How does the dog deal with new people and new situations? Is he timid about new things or outgoing?

—How does the dog relate to people and other dogs when on walks?

—Does the dog guard any toys, special chews, food bowl, places such as his dog bed?

This has been a very brief overview of issues related to adding a dog to your family. I am happy to help in greater depth if you give me a call. ❖

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Crime Alert—Make Your Home and Cars More Secure

Phyllis Brinkley, pbrinkley@austin.rr.com

There has been an unprecedented number of auto burglaries since the end of the summer. There was also burglary and numerous petty crimes. Now is the time to secure your home and car to reduce crime in the neighborhood.

The Allandale listserve group was the source of information about some of these crimes. (Directions for joining ANA's listserve group are in a later paragraph.) Without this tool in place we would not have known about these crimes.

In Allandale and a map that indicates that the majority of burglary of vehicles (BOVs) has been in the area south of the Anderson-Burnet Road intersection.

The National Crime Prevention Council predicts that one out of six homes will be burglarized this year. With some effort and a little money you can reduce the chance of becoming a victim:

- Get to know your neighbors. Talk to your neighbors about what you see. Watch out for each other.
- Start a neighborhood watch program, call the city and ask for the Neighborhood Watch Program. To alert law enforcement about suspicious activities call 911.
- Ask the police department to conduct a free home security survey (974-5346).

A few simple changes will make your home less attractive to burglars.

- One of the best crime deterrents is bright light around your home. Use the newer motion-detection lights to conservative electricity.
- Be sure all outside doors are 1 3/4-inch solid wood or metal, preferably without windows.
- Install a keyed deadbolt on each external door. Rekey the doors when you move into a new home or apartment. Secure sliding glass doors with commercial locks or a dowel or broomstick in the interior track to jam the door. To prevent the sliding door from being lifted off the track, drill a hole through the sliding door frame and the fixed frame. Insert a small finishing nail in the hole. Door chains are not secure; they can easily be broken or removed through a broken window.

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- Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Don't use door chains—they break easily.
- Don't open the door to unknown persons. Answer through the door so they know someone is home. Ask what they want through the door. Watch where they go next and call police if they appear suspicious (911).
- Give an extra key to a trusted friend instead of hiding one outside the house.
- Secure the windows. Use window locks or place a nail through a hole drilled in the window frame and the fixed frame.
- Prune shrubbery so that it doesn't hide windows and doors. Cut back tree limbs so that a thief can not climb into second story window.
- Use timers on your lights and radios when you travel. Set them to go on and off in different areas of your house. Leave shades, blinds, and curtains in normal positions.
- Don't let mail or newspapers pile up when you travel. Call the post office and newspaper office to stop your mail and newspaper, or have a neighbor pick them up.
- Buy a sensor recording of a barking dog and leave it to play while you are gone.
- Be sure the lawn is cut so that it doesn't look like you are gone.
- Inventory and mark your property so that it is easily identified if it is stolen. Keep the list in your office, at a friend's home, with an insurance agent or attorney, or in a safe deposit box.
- Engrave your social security number on all electronics.
- Make a list and take photos of your valuables and list serial numbers and descriptions. (This will also be important in case of a fire. Have a list and photos of almost everything in your house in case of fire. Leave one copy with an insurance person, or attorney or put it in a safety deposit box).
- Consider home intrusion and fire alarms. Get a system that offers central monitoring.
- Don't leave anything of value or keys or garage door opener in your car for someone to break in. Lock your car doors and roll up your windows.
- If you own guns, be sure they are in a place not to be found (like in your garage). You are more likely to have return break in for guns because thieves know that people replace guns.

For more information about outside lights to or any other questions, call Baker 8 Police Officer ANA's Police officer representative David Crowder 974-5345 or email david.crowderjr@ci.austin.tx.us.

To correct poor street lighting, call Leonard Hough at 505-7539 or call to have a free street light put on your street, provide recreational facilities for teens, clean debris from vacant lots.

To report missing street signs call 457-4851. Be sure that your home address is visible.

To join ANA's listserve group send a blank e-mail to allandale-subscribe @yahoogroups.com. You will receive a subscription conformation. Reply to this message and your subscription will be complete. This service is free and you can unsubscribe at any time. This way you will stay informed about neighborhood crime. ❖

Maybe something like this???

Check out www.allandalereporter.org for additional safetly holiday tips from Police Officer David Crowder.

Take Pride In our Neighborhood

Help out a neighbor ■ Don't litter ■ Donate to local charities ■ Spay or neuter your pets ■ Plant flowers ■ Volunteer ■ Use our trails and parks ■ Conserve water ■ Organize Neighborhood Watch program ■ Drive carefully ■ Have a block party ■ Attend a neighborhood meeting ■ VOTE! ■ Report suspicious activities to 311 ■ Observe the speed limit ■ Keep your pets on a leash ■ Recycle ■ Pick up after your pets ■ Park in your driveway ■ Keep bicycle lanes open ■ Keep your home in good repair ■ Keep your yard mowed and trimmed ■ Join ANA ■ Donate household items ■ Report potholes 440-8444 ■ Correct poor street lighting 505-7617 ■ Stay in contact with your elderly neighbors ■ Take walks around the neighborhood ■ Pick up litter in streets and on sidewalks ■ Organize a safe house on routes to schools ■ Report missing street signs 457-4851 ■ Take a day off work to spend with your family ■

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- ❑ Sheffield NW District Park
- ❑ City planning
- ❑ Shoal Creek cleanup
- ❑ Write local history
- ❑ July 4th Parade
- ❑ Membership
- ❑ Crime prevention
- ❑ Yarborough Library
- ❑ Shoal Creek issues
- ❑ Newsletter/website
- ❑ Partners in Education
- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Capital Metro
- ❑ Engineering issues

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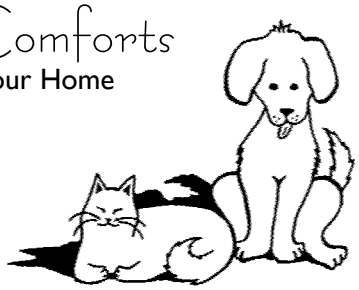

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